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MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 1899.

THE SENATORIAL FIGHT.

Public attention is focused on Helena. Tomorrow the Sixth legislative assembly will meet in joint session to vote for a successor to the Hon. Lee Mantle in the senate of the United States. The conditions that environ the forthcoming election are such as to inspire the liveliest interest. All the avowed candidates for that important position are either millionaires in their own right or are backed by millionaire influences. The struggle promises to be a bitter one, for personal feelings of the most intense type enter into almost every phase of the contest.

Charges and counter-charges of the corrupt use of money are freely made, and it is understood that a host of detectives have been employed to shadow members of that body. The average democratic legislator appears to be under the espionage of prying eyes. The situation must be anything but pleasant to the well meaning members of the assembly, whose personal honesty is placed under suspicion not only for the remainder of their official term but for all time to come. Such members will always encounter men who will believe that they accepted bribes either to vote for some particular individual, or not to vote for him as the case might be.

There seems to be but one course of procedure consistent with the situation, and that is for the legislative assembly to at once institute an inquiry into the general charges of bribery that have been made. Doubtless it would place that body in a much better light before the public if such an investigation were instituted before a conclusion is reached in the election of a senator. From the standpoint of reputation for the state, and without regard for the interests of individuals concerned in the senatorial fight, the contest should not proceed with undue haste. If the charges made are not investigated until after the election of a senator, or are not looked into at all, many of the good people of this state will be forced to accept the truth of the allegations that have emanated from prominent democratic sources.

No member of the legislature can afford to cast his final vote for senator until these charges have either been done away with or the guilty are apprehended, if any guilty there be. Laying everything else aside but the good name of the state, and it would seem that the duty of that august body is plain. However, it is a question for the party in control to handle in its own way. Perhaps it is having enough fun out of the situation to waive the matter of reputation in the future.

FREE COINAGE OR COMPROMISE--WHICH?

The history of the ignorant in all ages is the history of opposition to those who fly the danger signals of the world. So pleasing are the gilded promises of desire--so satisfactory are the brightening rays of hope--that he who points out the possible dangers of the future is heralded as an enemy to mankind. This has been the record of the world in all ages, and will continue to be while a policy of political prudence decrees the deceit of leadership, that the masses may rejoice.

It is therefore with philosophical resignation that the Inter Mountain greets the accusation of disloyalty to silver made by the Anaconda Standard. The charge is based on no word uttered against the cause of bimetalism, to which

this paper has dedicated its best energies, but on the fact that we have pointed out to the people of this state the pit-falls and dangers that lie in the pathway of the silver forces.

We have endeavored to arouse the democracy of this state to a realization that the gold wing of that party is planning the destruction of the free coinage issue in the national councils of its organization. An effort has been made to stir up the slumbering energies of a dormant silver democracy, that besetting dangers might through organized activity be averted.

But these efforts have been resented. They disturb the pleasant dreams of political power that come to the siesta of the Montana democracy since it fattened on the spoils of a temporary victory at the polls. To point out a danger that threatens the control of the silver wing of the democratic party in the next national convention, is to subject the Inter Mountain to the imputation of disloyalty to the true interests of the silver cause. And yet these dangers to the issue of free coinage are apparent to any intelligent observer of the present trend of affairs in the democratic party.

A studied effort is being made to effect a reunion of the silver and gold wings of the national democracy on the new issue of "anti-imperialism." This reunion, if brought about, implies the absolute and unqualified rejection of the issue of the free coinage of gold and silver at a ratio of 16 to 1. If under such an arrangement the principle of bimetalism is recognized at all, it will be a generalization that specifies no ratio between the metals, and be a "silver plank" which the average gold man in any party might enthusiastically endorse.

Conscious of the work that is being done to effect a democratic reconciliation, so-called leading organs of the alleged silver democracy of this state, like the Anaconda Standard, do not utter one word of protest on behalf of the interests of free coinage. Richard Croker, the Tammany leader, commits that organization to the single gold standard, and declares the free coinage issue dead, yet not a word of censure or remonstrance from the nestor of Montana newspapers! The Standard looked upon the Tammany organization as an influential factor in the affairs of the democratic party when it devoted columns of its valuable space to an indorsement of its candidate for mayor of Greater New York. Yet when that same organization declares that free coinage is dead, and that its candidates for congress were elected only by repudiating that issue, the Standard maintains the deep and dignified silence and solemnity of the tomb. Instead of resenting the act of Tammany it snarls viciously at the Inter Mountain for calling attention to it.

To still further crush out the free coinage issue, a well defined plan has been mapped out to prevent the renomination of Bryan in 1900, even though that able advocate of silver now seems willing to make the issue that gave him prominence secondary to the cry of "imperialism." In seeking to start a popular hurrah for Dewey for president, that will throw Mr. Bryan in the shade, Henry Watterson, the eminent democratic leader, says in part:

To come down to hard logical facts, old horse sense sitting in the rocker--the issue of free silver being relegated to the limbo of hushed shades, the tariff issue peacefully reposing upon the shelf where the Cleveland administration left it to wait for free trade under new conditions--the season of famine ended and the season of plenty arrived--what are the democrats to do for a national platform and ticket?

How many Montana democrats will repudiate the position taken by Watterson, the sworn enemy to free coinage? How many will say: "Give us Bryan and free coinage and a divided party, rather than Dewey and party harmony." If the Standard feels that way, it does not say so. Again it is as silent as the grave. It would be interesting to take a census of Montana democrats and get their preferences as between William Jennings Bryan and George Dewey as a presidential nominee!

The Standard accuses the Inter Mountain of rejoicing when it "finds" an eastern democrat or eastern newspaper that "is not in favor of making silver the paramount issue in the next campaign." Our neighbor is in error. The Inter Mountain has repeatedly expressed its regrets that a movement is on foot within

the democratic party to relegate silver to the rear. If it looked with delight on such a movement it would certainly not point out the dangers that threaten the silver cause, and entreat the silver democracy of this state to guard against them.

To speak of "finding" some democrat in the east who opposes free coinage, is to mis-state the situation. To find one who favors free coinage at the established ratio of 16 to 1 is by far the more difficult task. It is a knowledge of this fact that prevents the Standard and the democracy it represents from taking up arms against the machinations and schemes of the gold wing of that party. They realize that they must trim their sails to new breezes in 1900, and do not wish to prejudice their standing at the presidential box-office in case of victory, by trying to avert the calamity that threatens the cause of free coinage, which they profess to love so well. Hence, the apathy on the part of the Anaconda Standard and its followers. Having won the election of 1898 through its professed devotion to free coinage, the Montana democracy is apparently ready to swallow a "compromise" in 1900 and call it a good thing.

WALKING OUT.

The Anaconda Standard refuses to commit the democracy of this state to the policy of having its delegates walk out of the next national convention, provided it does not declare for the free coinage of silver at a ratio of 16 to 1. Having absolutely pledged that convention to such a declaration two years in advance of its meeting, and given to the people of this state the unqualified assurance that free coinage will be made the paramount issue in 1900 by the national democracy, it is indeed surprising that the Standard is unwilling to recommend a withdrawal of silver democrats from that body should it unfortunately fall into the hands of the Philistines.

Unless the silver democrats of Montana are willing to go the extreme of cutting loose from their party affiliations, provided their national convention refuses to adopt a free coinage plank, then the cause of silver is indeed in a hard way. The silver republicans of the United States withdrew from their party in 1896 and devoted their energies to the cause of bimetalism, whether they formally withdrew from the national convention or not, and no one could honestly question their unswerving fidelity to the cause.

In refusing to state whether the devotion of the Montana democracy to the cause of free coinage is equally strong, the Standard falls back on the statement that Senator Mantle did not walk out of the St. Louis convention, and yet he is a reliable silver man. But the democracy of this state has hardly appreciated Senator Mantle's work in behalf of silver sufficiently to now attempt to use him as a convention example. As the Standard so wills, however, we will ask that oracle to give to the people of Montana the assurance that the Democracy of this state will break away from its political affiliations, provided the national convention of that party does not declare for the free coinage of gold and silver at a ratio of 16 to 1. Will the silver democrats of Montana do this or will they take their medicine?

As the Standard on behalf of its constituency positively assured the people that the national democracy would be loyal to free coinage, and thus strengthened its position in the late campaign, let us now hear as to what it would do should the threatening dangers be realized. Though the convention is quite a way off one point is as pertinent as the other, and an anxious public has a right to know just where the fidelity of the Montana democracy begins and leaves off. Besides it would be reassuring to the public to know what the dominant party intends to do about it.

Peculiar and Pertinent.

In the United States 390,000 cubic feet of pine are used annually in making matches.

A statistician estimates that England has \$550,000,000 invested in land and mortgages in countries abroad.

An elephant is possessed of such a delicate sense of smell that it can scent a human being at a distance of 1,000 yards.

A grain of fine sand would cover about 100 of the minute scales of the human skin; each scale covers from 300 to 500 pores.

There is a belief among the South Sea Islanders that no man can enter Para-

dise who has lost a limb, and for this reason a man will often die rather than submit to amputation.

FAME'S PATHWAY.

Cardinal Gibbons of Baltimore has a photograph of the queen of Italy sent him by King Humbert.

James Lane, who died in Chicago the other day, was aged 101, and was a boyhood friend of Stephen A. Douglas.

Cardinal Mertel is 95 years old, and is so active that he bids fair to reach 100 years. He is one of the few surviving cardinals created by Pius IX.

Col. Thomas Wentworth Higginson, who celebrated his 75th birthday on the 22d of this month, looks but half his age and says he feels "even younger."

The late C. T. Wilder of Newton, Mass., bequeathed \$10,000 to the American College for Girls at Constantinople and the same sum to Robert College for American men in the same city.

The late Calvin Brice's only explanation of his remarkable signature was that he "had always written that way and couldn't make it plainer." It was a mere series of up and down marks which bore no similitude to English penmanship.

Rev. Hiram Hutchins, D. D., at the advanced age of 88 years, is still able to take his accustomed walks about the streets of Brooklyn, where he has so long been a familiar figure. His robust intellectual powers are still preserved, and as pastor emeritus of the Bedford avenue church he not infrequently takes part in its services with the pastor.

LIGHTS AND SIDELIGHTS.

A young man may be said to have reached the years of discretion when he takes down the pictures of actresses from his mantel and puts up a portrait of his maiden aunt instead.--Somerville Journal.

One of the Puzzles.--"Speaking of puzzles," he said irritably, "just look at my case. Here I am feeling meaner than a pug dog looks, and I don't know whether to call it grip and send for a doctor or to consider it a cold and dose myself with quinine."--Chicago Post.

Wise Lad.--"What will happen to you if you are a good little boy?" asked the kindly old woman.

"I'll get a stick of candy for being good."

"And what will happen to you if you are bad?"

"I'll get two sticks of candy for promising to try to be good."--Chicago Post.

Woes of a Wife.--"Oh, that I should have married a funny man," she wailed.

"What is the matter, love, dear?" asked her most intimate friend.

"He came home and told me he had a sure way to keep jelly from moulding at the top, and when I asked him how he said turn it upside down."--Cincinnati Enquirer.

WANTED TO MARRY.

Rochester (N. Y.) Herald: It is easy to hide poverty, but it is absolutely impossible to hide money. People may think you are wealthy when you are poor, but if you are wealthy no one will ever suspect you of being poor. Wealth is like a balloon in the air--it draws all eyes.

As a proof of this, here's an example of how rich ladies, widows and single, living right here in Rochester, are made to feel the "curse of gold."

A wealthy East Side woman, unmarried, spent last summer on the Maine coast. While there she lived at a very modest and inexpensive hotel. She also attended services at a little Presbyterian church in the village, the choir of which consisted of three singers, two women and one man, the latter a tall, broad-shouldered countryman, awkward and homely.

On week days he worked hard in the field, and was not a little discontented with his lot in life. He longed for wealth, and, considering himself good looking, cherished the hope that some time he would be able to marry a rich visitor to the village. One Sunday he met her in the church, and she complimented him on his singing.

Soon after this the lady returned to Rochester, thinking no more about the robust singer up on the Maine coast. But he had not forgotten the lady who had said pleasant words to him, and who, he thought, would be willing to marry him. A few days ago Miss F. received the following from her friend in the Maine village:

"It's my delight to correspond with Distant friends, so don't think I'm fresh for riting those few lines to tell you how much I like you. If you are willing I am willing to marry you, howsoever if you think my eccentricities to much to weigh against your money I won't write any more but hoping that I will accept my corresponding. Yours to a Cinder, Mr. R."

IRONICAL IPS.

If a woman is patriotic she never deserts her colors.

If lies had only legs they wouldn't be able to travel quite so fast.

If love made the world go round there would be fewer revolutions.

If a man is given his daily bread he kicks because it isn't buttered.

If some men fail to get their just deserts they have cause for rejoicing.

If a girl proposes marriage to a man she merely tries to make a name for herself.

If a man is as honest as the day is long it is sometimes well to turn the searchlight on his night record.

If a girl tells a young man she can put her skates on without help it's foolish for him to waste any more time in that direction.

HIS DUTIES WERE ARDUOUS.

An affecting story is told by Fireman George Murray of Truck 22, Amsterdam avenue, near Ninety-eighth street, New York, says the Cincinnati Enquirer. George says that when a fine looking old lady came along one day when a fine looking old lady came along. She gazed earnestly at one of the men sitting with George, and finally said: "Tell me, is your name William Duzenberry?"

"It is," said the man.

"Have you a strawberry mark on your shoulder blade?"

"I have," answered William Duzenberry.

"Then come to my arms, my long-lost boy!" cried the old lady, as she clasped him to her breast.

Then, growing calmer, she said: "It is 20 years since you left home, my boy. Why is it in all that time you have never gladdened our eyes? Why don't you come home, my son, if only to see us once a year?"

William Duzenberry's strong frame shook with sobs.

"I could not come, mother," he said, "don't you see I am in the fire department?"

A POSTAL JOKE.

A West Side recently approached a certain postoffice official. His face was serious; so was his voice.

"Say," he said, "I don't think it's right for you to make your letter carriers do double duty."

"What do you mean?" exclaimed the official.

"Why, we've got a letter carrier over our way who is at it day and night."

"At what?"

"Why, he carries mails all day, and then has an extra male to carry at night."

The official looked puzzled.

"That's queer," he said; "I'll inquire into it."

Then his face brightened up.

"Hold on," he cried, "what does that night mail weigh?"

"About nine pounds," said the citizen, with a hoarse chuckle.

The official grinned.

"Guess he'll have to stand it," he said, "it's a short route, you know."

Hardup--Hello, Space, old boy, will you indorse a note for me?

Phil Space--Excuse me, but my journalistic training would never let me have anything to do with a paper written on both sides.

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